Answered July 4 1838

New Brunswick April 17 1838

To the Senior & Junior at Princeton Theminary

Dear Brethren — Your kind favour of the 3d Instant was received and the sentiments are very cordially reciprocated. It is to us a source of unfeigned pleasure that we may thus seek counsel with fellow Students in directing present attainments and future exertions in extending the borders of Zion — Thus by mutually surveying the land to be possessed in its extent its wants and its destiny we may more effectually range ourselves under the Head of the Church in subduing the kingdoms of this world to become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ — Here is common ground for Christian labour and Christian fellowship — And never will the Church appear so lovely and glorious as when her whole Family shall harmonize in sanctified purity and zeal in gathering and arranging the materials of the Gospel Jerusalem — Here Brethren may we meet as coworkers in trial and in triumph — Here may we behold the fields already white for harvest and prostrate daily go forth as messengers of mercy gathering the fruits of grace unto Eternal life — It is unto the many Brethren in the Theminaries of our land that it appears to be given to preach the Everlasting Gospel — Upon them the Church looks as the rich legacy of Sainted Fathers — On them rest the earthly hopes of Heathen Millions abroad; and the maintainance of Gospel purity in our own country — Well then does it become us to look from our Theminaries over the wide fields of moral desolation at home and abroad and faithfully hearken to the solemn injunction "Occupy till I come" —

To cherish such sentiments and ingage mutual duty on the great question of Missions we cordially return your Correspondence — And as this is our first letter to you and the domestic & foreign operations of our Church may be somewhat unknown we will briefly State the History, Condition and prospects of the Work on our borders &c

The Associate Reformed Church has long regarded the Spirit of Missions as the Spirit of Christ — And indifference and apparent inability have effectually prevented her being a pioneer in the great conflict between light and darkness on foreign ground — In the domestic field her stand has been more decided and the fruit more abundant — The heresy

in this country is the offspring of a labour of love – For her fathers leaving the bosom of the Scottish Churches entered the American field in the moral desolations of its early days. Her labourers were few and her light was feeble yet burning and bright. The field then opened received attention – An elect Ministers explored it's [illegible] gathering many wandering sheep into living folds and discovering many fountains whose streams by the blessing of the Head of the Church might fertilize and beautify the moral waste. The Valley of the Mississippi received particular culture – And now presents in active labour in the Home or Foreign field One Synod embracing eight large Presbyteries – Several Academies and Colleges under its immediate direction and also one Theological Seminary at Pittsburgh where about forty young men are guiding on the Gospel armour. In the South too her labours were duly and the blessing pleasing – Such are our domestic relations Peace & prosperity appear on our borders – And an increasing desire to send the gospel to the ends of the Earth seems pervading the Churches peculiarly enlivening all her Spiritual graces

In the foreign field our Church has at no time led the Mission band. Nor can she point to her Mills and Judsons and Morrisons with their glad tidings to a Heathen World. Still she has done something. Her cause has been gradual and somewhat unproductive. In 1795. or 6. Rev Dr Mason returned from Europe deeply imbued with the Mission Spirit that then flowed with unaccustomed intensity & Beauty in the British Isles. His talents and piety were sacredly and hopefully devoted to the cause of Missions. The Churches caught his Spirit. And soon after united with the Presbyterian and Dutch Reformed Churches in extending the gospel of life. That Union Constituted the New York Missionary Society. Its labours were more confined to the domestic field And Missionary Inquiry then to personal service abroad. Yet it effected much for Missions assumed a definite form and the woes of the Heathen World began to attract the Sympathies & prayers and self devotion of the Friends of God & man.

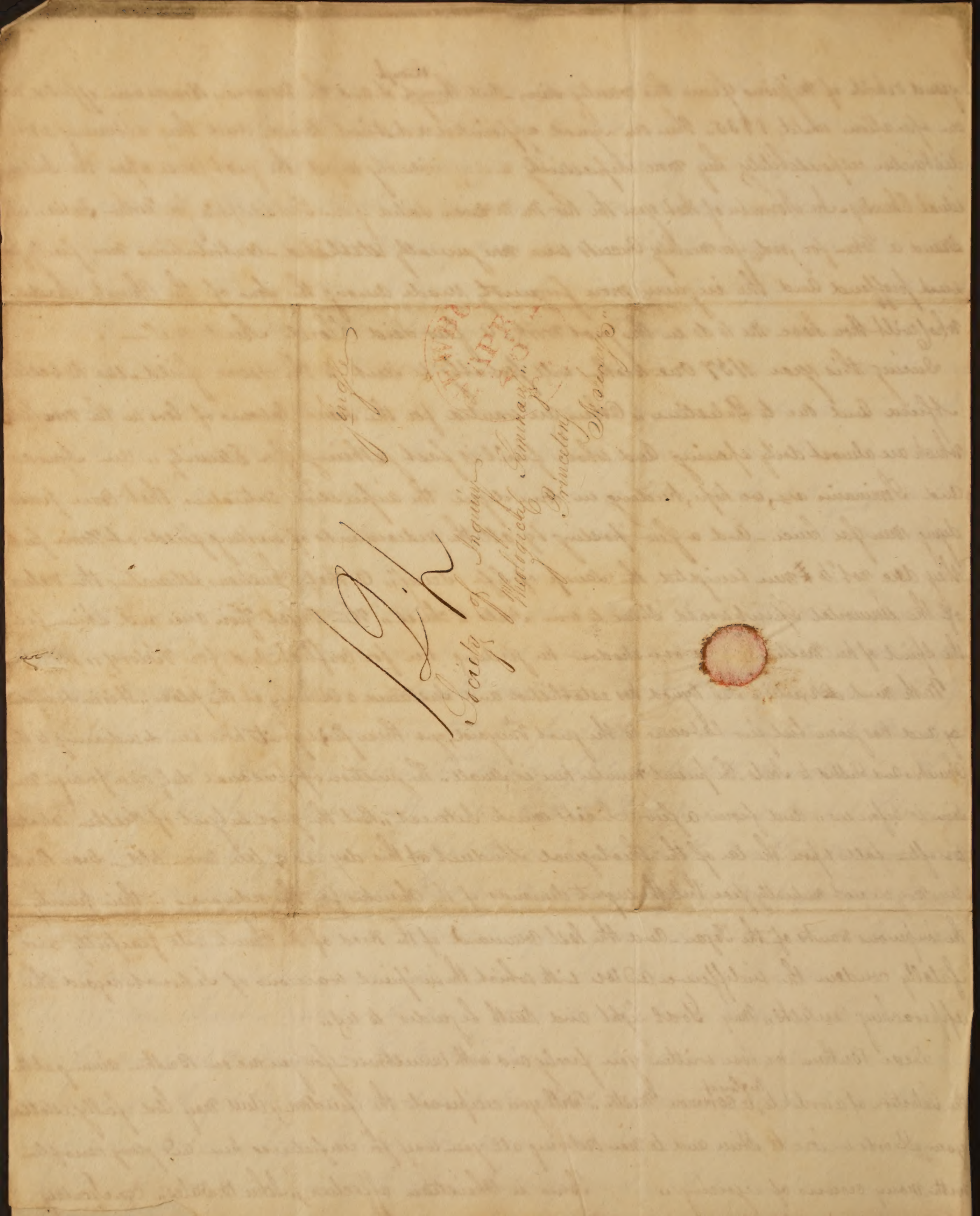
In 1817 these Churches assumed the name of the United Foreign Missionary Society. Soon after this our first Missionary the Rev Mr Crane (Crane) commenced a Mission among the Western Indians. He laboured with fidelity and success until he sealed his labours with his death. Many who his lips had been sealed in pagan silence have arisen to call him blessed; And his God their Redeemer –

In 1826 this Society with some of the Eastern Churches was merged into the American Board. It has been the

grand vehicle of Missions from this country since - And through it and the Moravian Brands were effected all our operations untel 1835. Then our Synod appointed a distinct Board. And they assuming a more distinctive responsibility, they more impressively and efficiently urged the great cause upon the Individual Churches. In November of that year the Rev Mr McEwen sailed from Philadelphia for Northern India. A Shower a token for good, for Monthly Concerts were more generally established - Contributions more freely proffered and the inquiry more frequently made among the Sons of the Church Lord Who will thou have me to do in this great work. A few said "Lord Send me" in.

During this year 1837 One Brother will probably be sent to the same field. One to Western Africa And one to Palestine. Others are wanted for the same labours of love in the new fields which are almost daily opening And whose fruit is fast gathering for Eternity. Our Synods and Seminaries are, we hope, tending in some degree the impression entertained that Come from dying men far hence - And a few passing by all the endearments of inviting fields at Home feel they dare not "to let men benighted the Lamps of life decay". O that Christians estimating the value of the immortal Spirit would strive to win Souls to Christ. Then might Zion arise and shine for the Spirit of her Master would overshadow her girding her for Conflict And for Victory. [illegible]

With much discretion this Synod has established and sustained a Seminary at this place. It is in its infancy and has given but few labourers to the great Vineyard, yet these first fruits have been endearing to the Churches And wedded to Souls. The present number here is small. The question of personal duty on a foreign Mission is before us. And from a few elicits much interest. But the great subject of Heathen salvation too often falls upon the Ear of the theological Student at this day as a tale twice told. Dear Brethren may we not mutually fear that the urgent demands of the Churches for the ordinances in their purity - the imperious wants of the Pagan - And the last Command of the Head of the Church will fearfully and fatally condemn the indifference and love with which the incipient warriors of Jehovah regard the approaching Conflicts. May God's light and truth be guides to us.

Dear Brethren we have written you freely and with earnestness - for you are our Brethren aiming at the same the Salvation of a world to the Glory of a Common Master. Will you reciprocate the freedom. And may God fully establish your Hearts in love to Him and to man ordering all your way for usefulness here and glory hereafter with many crowns of rejoicing.

Yours in Christian affection, John B. Dales. Cor. Secretary